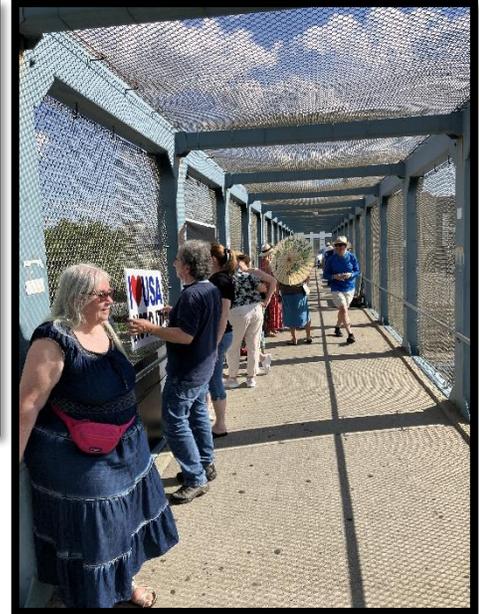




A newsletter focused on environmental justice-related events and actions specifically affecting New Jersey.

<https://www.uufaithaction.org/blog>

## EJTF ACTIVITIES



- **EJTF member Sally Jane Gellert** (pictured fourth from right in the front row in the photo above, left) took part in "Unitarian Universalist (UU) Hill Day - Love & Justice for All" on June 17, 2025 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. UUs visited Senate offices with set appointments, hall meetings, or literature drop-offs, engaged strategically important Senators in the Majority and the Minority, and touched base with important House offices. It was led by UUs for Social Justice, with the participation of the UU Ministry for Earth, and support of Side With Love, and the UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), of which Sally Jane Gellert is a Board of Trustees Co-chair.
- **Sally Jane Gellert** (at left in the photo above, right) also took part in a Visibility Brigade Movement protest on July 9, 2025 in Paramus, NJ, where participants took to the pedestrian walkway overpass over Route 4 where the Visibility Brigade model was born in 2020, holding up letters spelling out advocacy slogans such as "NO USA CONCENTRATION CAMPS" over the thoroughfare.

## NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

<a href="#">EJTF Activities</a> .....	1		
<a href="#">DEP REAL Rules Proposed Revision</a> .....	3	- <a href="#">Climate Change</a> .....	16
<a href="#">Future Events</a> .....	4	- <a href="#">Forest Health/Urban Forestry</a> .....	16
<a href="#">Videos+ of Past Events</a> .....	10	- <a href="#">Lead Reduction in Households</a> .....	17
<a href="#">News Related to EJTF Issues</a> .....	13	- <a href="#">Drinking Water (other than lead)</a> .....	17
- <a href="#">Environmental Justice</a> .....	13	- <a href="#">Pollution</a> .....	18
- <a href="#">Electric Vehicles/Vehicle Emission Reduction</a> .....	13	- <a href="#">Education and Youth-related</a> .....	18
- <a href="#">Fossil Fuel Infrastructure</a> .....	14	- <a href="#">Other</a> .....	19
- <a href="#">Renewable Resources (other than Offshore Wind)</a> ... 14		<a href="#">EJTF's Goals for 2024/2025</a> .....	21
- <a href="#">Land Management/ Agriculture/ Food</a> .....	15	<a href="#">Moratorium Mondays</a> .....	21

- **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** is continuing her work for the environment in Sussex and Warren Counties, which includes being the **Paulins Kill Watershed (WS) Coordinator for the Foodshed Alliance**. The impact of current Federal budget cuts have resulted in major setbacks for the Foodshed Alliance and the Paulins Kill Watershed Community program. 2.3 million dollars in signed farm contracts were revoked, along with the rescinding of National Park Service (NPS) community programs. Despite these setbacks, they continue to serve their food banks with fresh harvests, provide farming land and train new farmers, and protect the waters and land - crucial work that they must continue to do.

The impact of the Federal budget cuts also diminishes local NJ environmental conservation efforts, water quality monitoring, education and public access initiatives, and halts vital programs such as E. coli monitoring, nutrient pollution tracking, streamflow analysis and youth internships. River management committees in NJ such as Egg Harbor WS, Mullica WS, Lower Delaware WS, Musconetcong WS and Maurice WS that involve collaboration between NPS, local governments, and communities, may find that budgeting, new studies and technical support all will be hindered. NPS, like many other Federal Agencies, has lost a major portion of their staff who support NJ environmental efforts.

The photos below show the Paulins Kill Watershed Program of the Foodshed Alliance, working in collaboration with Montclair State University, New Jersey Center for Water Science and Technology, in measuring harmful algal bloom (HABs) concentrations in the Paulins Kill Lake area. Shown is their team monitoring a river section. The critical work continues as it must!



## DEP Scales Back Coastal Protection REAL Rules at Last Minute



Photo by Elnias on Freeimages.com

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) "Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL) rules designed to protect communities from climate-change-fueled rising seas and bigger storms were due to be finalized on 8/4/2025. DEP had received pushback on the rules from business groups and over 130 municipalities, many of them on the NJ shore. Three weeks before the date they were to be finalized, DEP announced that significant changes were to be made to the rules, and published a "Notice of Proposed Substantial Changes" in the NJ Register on 7/21/2025 (available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4jexz57a>).

This *New Jersey Monitor* article provides a comprehensive description of the proposed revisions: "**Amended NJ Flood Rules Plan Leaves Environmentalists, Business Groups Unsatisfied**" (available here: <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2025/07/14/amended-flood-rules-plan-leaves-environmentalists-business-groups-unsatisfied/>). According to the article: **"The changes... would lower a contentious elevation requirement, add language exempting affordable housing from some rules, and allow some ongoing projects to be completed under existing rules, among other things.**

**Altering the rules proposal will kick off another 60-day public comment period.... Regulators plan to hold a remote public hearing on the amended proposal in September and are aiming to approve the rules in January before the end of Gov. Phil Murphy's second term.**

**Most notably, the new proposal uses a more conservative estimate of sea level rise over the next 75 years that officials said was driven by new modeling."**

**Environmental justice advocates have pointed out that the most unconscionable part of the revised regulations is the addition of affordable housing to the activities eligible for a "hardship exemption" to the rules.** In addition, interestingly, the proposed rules exempt film studios, like Netflix, that have partnerships with the state's Economic Development Authority, and a new grace period has been added for ongoing projects to comply with the rules.

**DEP will hold a virtual public hearing 9/3/2025; written comments are due 9/30/2025.**

A previous public hearing was held 7/17/2025; links to the video and presentation slides are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/njreal/webinars/>. Links to additional information, including how to comment, are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/njreal/nosc/>. The article available here provides a comprehensive description, including of the revised science DEP cites for the rules revision: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/nj-dep-softens-proposed-new-coastal-protection-rules/>.

## FUTURE EVENTS - *Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid*

**EJTF members - also watch for email announcements of events with short lead times!**

**Others - send an email to [uufathactionejtf@gmail.com](mailto:uufathactionejtf@gmail.com) requesting to receive information about environmental issues and upcoming events.**

<b>AUGUST 2025</b>						
<b>(with <a href="#">hyperlinks</a> to details on the following pages)</b>						
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b>  <a href="#">NJDEP "Natural Climate Solutions Round II Application Deep Dive"</a>                      - 11:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">"Green Day" at the NJ State Fair</a>                      - 12:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Comments Due: <a href="#">Stop Reapproval of LNG Transport by Rail</a></p>	<p><b>5</b>  <a href="#">NJBPU Resource Adequacy Technical Conference</a>                      - 9:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">City of Paterson EJ NJDEP Community Engagement Session</a>                      - 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>6</b>  <a href="#">Tour Operating Wind-Energy Turbines</a>                      - 12:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">DRBC 3Q Public Hearing</a>                      - 1:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation</a>                      - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>7</b>  <a href="#">AFL-CIO Labor in the Pulpit Program: Labor's Outreach to the Faith Community</a>                      - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b>  <a href="#">"EJ Listen and Learn Session" Lead-Free NJ East Trenton Collaborative</a>                      - 9:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">NOFA NJ "FesTomato!"</a>                      - 3:00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b>  <a href="#">NJLWV "Energizing Young Voters Summer Training Program"</a>                      - 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b>  <a href="#">NJLWV "Energizing Young Voters Summer Training Program"</a>                      - 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b>  <a href="#">Tour Operating Wind-Energy Turbines</a>                      - 12:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">NJLWV "Energizing Young Voters Summer Training Program"</a>                      - 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <a href="#">NJLWV "Energizing Young Voters Summer Training Program"</a>                      - 1:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">"Nuclear Power Unaffordable at Any Size" Plus "Nuclear Weapons in the New Cold War"</a>                      - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>15</b>  <a href="#">NJLWV "Energizing Young Voters Summer Training Program"</a>                      - 1:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Comments Due: <a href="#">NJ Pinelands Commission Proposed Amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan</a></p> <hr/> <p>Comments Due: <a href="#">NJDEP Permit Application for NESE Project</a></p> <hr/> <p>Comments Due: <a href="#">NJDEP Noise Control Rule Proposal</a></p> <hr/> <p>Panelist Self-Nomination Due: <a href="#">Multi-State Technical Conference on PJM Interconnection and Governance Reform</a></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b>  <a href="#">Tomato Tasting at Hunterdon Community Farmers Market</a>                      - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>                      Comments Due: <a href="#">NJBPU Resource Adequacy Concerns</a></p>	<p><b>20</b>  <a href="#">Tour Operating Wind-Energy Turbines</a>                      - 12:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">"The Future of the Environment and Transportation in New Jersey"</a>                      - 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>

**Calendar continues on p. 5**

**Calendar continued from p. 4**

<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Comments Due: <a href="#">USACE NY-NJ Harbor and Tributaries Study Draft Report</a>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <a href="#">DRBC Advisory Committee on Climate Change Meeting</a> - 9:30 a.m.  <a href="#">Tour Operating Wind-Energy Turbines</a> - 12:00 p.m.  <a href="#">"Good Grain" Film Screening at Pinelands Preservation Alliance</a> - 7:00 p.m.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
-----------	---	-----------	---	-----------	-----------	-----------

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Stop Reapproval of LNG Transport by Rail Comments Due 8/4/2025**

Although this is a National issue, it directly relates to NJ, in that the original plan of the developer New Fortress Energy was to ship liquefied natural gas (LNG) from a town in northeast Pennsylvania to a planned terminal in Gibbstown, NJ where it would be loaded onto ocean-going tankers and sent overseas. This became impracticable because federal authorization for LNG shipment by rail had been suspended. It is now being reconsidered. From the Delaware Riverkeeper Network website: "The [U.S.] Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) that includes a reconsideration of allowing the transportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by rail tank car. The Trump Administration overturned the longstanding ban on LNG by Rail (the 'Trump LNG by Rail Rule') during its first administration but the Trump LNG by Rail Rule was suspended under the Biden Administration and ultimately defeated by a court challenge to protect public safety and the environment. Trump's PHMSA is now resurrecting the allowance of railcar transport of LNG throughout the nation by seeking 'stakeholder' input. This Advanced Notice would be followed by a proposed rulemaking if there is stakeholder response supporting the lifting of the LNG by Rail ban. The ban could then be overturned by a new rule." **Comments are due on the ANPRM by August 4, 2025.** Links to relevant documents, and to submit comments, as well as suggested talking points, are available here:

<https://delawareriverkeeper.org/comment-to-stop-lng-transport-by-rail/>. A webinar "LNG Hazardous Rail Proposal" presented by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDYbjwICmxk>.

**"Green Day" at the NJ State Fair  
8/4/2025, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sussex County Fairgrounds, Augusta, NJ  
- In-person**

On Monday, 8/4/2025, from noon to 4:00 p.m., there will be a "Green Day" at the NJ State Fair at the Sussex County Fairgrounds, in the fair's Planet Networks Performing Arts Tent. It will showcase environmental exhibits and vendors. Additional information, including links to purchase tickets online in advance, is available here: <https://sussexcountyfairgrounds.org/html/fair-info.cfm>. **Advance ticket prices are: Child - \$4; Senior - \$8; and Adult - \$12.**

**NJDEP "Natural Climate Solutions Round II Application Deep Dive" - Webinar  
8/4/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

This webinar is presented by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It "will provide an overview of application materials and process. Learn about accessing the SAGE system, new grant program templates, and the NCS [Natural Climate Solutions] Application Support Tool. There will be an opportunity for live questions and answers." NJDEP's Natural Climate Solutions Grant Program "funds on-the-ground implementation of projects that create, restore, and enhance New Jersey's natural carbon sinks, such as forests, urban parks, woodlands, street trees, salt

marshes, and seagrass beds. Funding for Round II of this program (\$30 million available) comes from New Jersey's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)." (See [p. 11](#) for links to a video and other materials related to the Round 1 projects.) Additional information about the grant program is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/climatechange/mitigation/ncs-grant/> and the link to register for the webinar is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr43wv3j>.

---

**NJBPU Resource Adequacy Technical Conference - Hybrid**  
**8/5/2025, 9:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.**  
**Ewing, NJ - In-person & via Zoom**

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) is holding a "Resource Adequacy Technical Conference" with the following goals: "to help: 1) plan for future load growth while maintaining resource adequacy; 2) identify any remaining barriers to achieving Resource Adequacy with a balanced mix of resources; 3) examine and evaluate the potential impacts of the Regional Wholesale Electricity Markets on ratepayers; 4) evaluate alternatives to the PJM capacity market; and 5) identify potential paths forward in achieving long-term Resource Adequacy within the state of New Jersey. The Technical Conference will involve a presentation on the basics of Resource Adequacy, as well as actions taken by the NJBPU since the last Resource Adequacy Technical Conference [in 2020]." The presentation will be followed by three panels, each one focused on separate topics as described in the agenda. Additional information, including the agenda, how to submit comments, and the link to register, is available here: [https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice\\_For\\_RA\\_Tech\\_Conference\\_2025\\_Updated.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_For_RA_Tech_Conference_2025_Updated.pdf). **Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on 8/19/2025.**

---

**City of Paterson EJ NJDEP Community Engagement Session - Hybrid**  
**8/5/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**  
**(rescheduled from 7/31/2025)**  
**- In-person (location TBD) & on Zoom**

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is partnering with Paterson Alliance to hold the Paterson Environmental Justice Community Engagement Session. From the DEP Office of

Environmental Justice (OEJ) news release: "DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette and DEP Office of Environmental Justice Director Kandyce Perry will meet with residents in Paterson's overburdened communities to discuss environmental justice concerns, share resources, and answer questions. Member organizations of Paterson Alliance's newly established Environmental Justice Working Group will highlight efforts to address environmental justice issues locally, and how residents can get involved." Registration is available here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/8oqbUBGsS7-5uZmVxDfI9g>.

---

**Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation**  
**8/6/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Virtual**

This webinar is presented by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Side with Love. "Get to know the new Green Sanctuary 2030: Mobilizing for Climate Justice! Green Sanctuary orientations provide an overview of the process and allow for plenty of time to get all of your questions answered. Come learn how to transform your congregation through climate justice." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/lyxWfz9kdE2UROFr6AehFA2>.

---

**Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Third Quarter 2025 Public Hearing**  
**8/6/2025, 1:30 p.m. - Virtual**

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will hold its third-quarter public hearing on Wednesday, 8/6/2025. The hearing is open to the public and will take place remotely via Zoom Webinar, and it will also be livestreamed on the DRBC's YouTube channel. Additional information including a link to the agenda and to register, and information about how to provide testimony, is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/upcoming/>.

---

**AFL-CIO Labor in the Pulpit Program: Labor's Outreach to the Faith Community**  
**- Webinar**  
**8/7/2025, 8:00 p.m.**

This webinar is sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) and will be presented by Rev. Dr. Michael

Szpak, the Religion-Labor Coordinator in the AFL-CIO Civil, Human and Women's Rights Department based in Washington, DC. "The Labor Day holiday season provides a unique opportunity for the faith community and organized labor to rediscover their common bonds: social justice, democracy, equality, the dignity of all people, economic and racial justice, fair treatment in the workplace and the right to form unions. It is also a time to reflect on the current condition of working people and reaffirm the commitment of the faith community to worker justice at this very challenging time. This webinar will present: 1- the AFL-CIO Labor in the Pulpit program as labor's outreach to the faith community. 2- It will present the structure of the AFL-CIO federated bodies: state federations, central labor councils and area labor federations.... 3-The Labor in the Pulpit program places union leaders as guest speakers in faith congregations to speak about the relationship between faith and labor. The webinar will discuss how intentional follow up with labor after the presentation through the central labor council is a way to build on-going relationships between faith and labor that can go beyond the local congregation." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

**NOFA NJ "FesTomato!"**  
**8/9/2025, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Egg Harbor City, NJ - In-person**

Sponsored by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA NJ), "FesTomato!" is an annual event hosted by NOFA NJ to highlight and promote NJ's favorite summer crop and the amazing farms and farmers that grow them. Free and open to the public, FesTomato! events are fun for the whole family, with tomato tastings [30+ varieties], farm tours, culinary demonstrations, live music, local vendors, and more." Additional information is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4j8nkndu>.

**"EJ Listen and Learn Session"**  
**Lead-Free NJ East Trenton Collaborative**  
**8/9/2025, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Hamilton, NJ - In-person**

"Join East Trenton Collaborative's Storytelling for Systems Change, a listen and learn session where you will: Hear the lived experiences from residents in environmental justice communities. Learn how to organize your community from [EJTF partner] Kim Gaddy, a national leader in the environmental justice movement." Additional information and registration are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4pf4chh8>.

**NJLWV "Energizing Young Voters Summer Training Program" - via Zoom**  
**8/11/2025, 8/12/2025, 8/13/2025,**  
**8/14/2025, 8/15/2025,**  
**all dates 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

This training program is presented by the NJ League of Women Voters (NJLWV). "Join us for the Energizing Young Voters Summer Training

Program, where you will learn how to present our suite of lessons and turn students into active citizens! Energizing Young Voters, an initiative of the League of Women Voters, envisions a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate. You can attend one or all of the training sessions. No teaching experience is required. These are interactive Zoom sessions, where you will be able to ask questions and learn how to deliver our lessons to students!" Additional information about each of the sessions and the registration link are available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/daanzspp>.

---

**“Nuclear Power Unaffordable at Any Size”  
Plus “Nuclear Weapons in the New Cold  
War” - Webinar  
8/14/2025, 8:00 p.m.**

This webinar, sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), will be presented by Lloyd Marbet, Cathy Chudy and David Delk. Additional information, including information about the presenters and the link to register, is available here:

<https://uujec.org/webinars>.

---

**NJ Pinelands Commission Proposed  
Amendments to the Pinelands  
Comprehensive Management Plan  
Comments Due 8/15/2025**

The New Jersey Pinelands Commission is proposing amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) relating to: application fees; the expiration of Certificates of Filing and Waivers of Strict Compliance; Regional Growth Areas and the Pinelands Development Credit program; and minor clarifications and updates. The proposal also includes an amendment to the Pinelands Land Capability Map to reflect the redesignation of the Black Run Watershed in Evesham Township from a Pinelands Rural Development Area to a Pinelands Forest Area. The Rule Proposal is available here:

[https://nj.gov/pinelands/cmp/amend/PRN\\_2025-063\\_57\\_NJR\\_1210.pdf](https://nj.gov/pinelands/cmp/amend/PRN_2025-063_57_NJR_1210.pdf) and the amended Land Capability Map is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdz57btx>. A video of a public

hearing on the proposed amendments is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/MDXpTFQXsv4>.

**Comments are due by 8/15/2025.** Instructions for submitting comments are available here:

[https://nj.gov/pinelands/home/hearings/documents/7\\_15\\_2025\\_Public\\_Hearing\\_Notice.pdf](https://nj.gov/pinelands/home/hearings/documents/7_15_2025_Public_Hearing_Notice.pdf).

---

**NJDEP Permit Application for NESE Project  
Comments Due 8/15/2025**

From the Sierra Club NJ: "On July 16th, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) declared the Williams - Transco's Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project land use application administratively complete.... The resurgence of the NESE project has seen little to no public engagement thus far. Transco fast tracked their petition with FERC and the window for public comment closed on June 24th with little to no outreach to the towns and counties in NESE's path. Currently, the NJDEP is providing a 30-day public comment period, the bare minimum required by law, on Williams Transco's application for its permits for the project including Flood Hazard, Stormwater, Freshwater Wetlands, and Coastal Zone permits." A description of the project and the link to provide comments are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/35craw2m>. **Comments are due 8/15/1015.** Also see the article on [p. 14](#) for additional information about the project.

---

**NJDEP Noise Control Rule Proposal  
Comments Due 8/15/2025**

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the New Jersey Noise Control Council are proposing amendments to the state's Noise Control Rules. The proposed amendments and repeals will update the Noise Control rules to consolidate definitions, amend definitions that are not sufficiently descriptive, and update measurement procedures and sound level measurement device requirements to reflect modern technology in broad use. **Written comments are due by August 15, 2025.**

Additional information, including how to submit written comments, and links to the rule proposal, is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/rules/notice-of-rule-proposals/20250616a/>.

**Multi-State Technical Conference  
on PJM Interconnection and Governance  
Reform  
Panelist Self-nomination Due 8/15/2025  
[Conference 9/23/2025, 9:00 a.m.,  
Philadelphia, PA - In-person]**

"The states of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia served by PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM) give notice of a multi-state technical conference regarding regional involvement in PJM wholesale market design and implementation to enhance accountability and transparency to state ratepayers. As PJM grapples with and as states confront the cost crisis in the wholesale market and the need for responsive regional planning that adapts to new transformative system conditions including a changing resource mix, new and improved grid technologies, extreme weather events, supply chain and interconnection disruptions, and other conditions, reform is necessary to bolster states' ability to engage to ensure the safe, affordable, and reliable delivery of electricity to consumers. The purpose of this technical conference is to initiate a public process that considers necessary organizational and mission changes in PJM governance to establish an active participatory role for member states and jurisdictions." The conference is to be held in Philadelphia 9/23/2025. Additional information, including links to self-nominate to be a panelist and to sign up to receive notification of conference registration, is available here: <https://mailchi.mp/gpsid/pjm-multi-state-technical-conference>.

---

**Tomato Tasting at Hunterdon Community  
Farmers Market  
8/17/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Flemington, NJ - In-person**

"Join NOFA NJ [Northeast Organic Farmers Association of NJ] at the Hunterdon Community Farmers Market for an all-day Tomato Tasting! Sample dozens of tomato varieties while learning about the farms that grow them and supporting local farms and food vendors!" Additional information is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yppx5vf6>.

---

**"The Future of the Environment and  
Transportation in New Jersey"  
8/20/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Camden, NJ - In-person**

"New Jersey's environment and transportation systems are at a pivotal moment, with key decisions ahead that will shape the state's future. On August 20, The Fund for New Jersey welcomes policy experts, community leaders, and concerned residents to Cathedral Kitchen in Camden for an important conversation on climate, transportation, and environmental justice. The discussion will explore how today's challenges can be addressed through thoughtful policy and community-driven action. Crossroads NJ Conversations 2025 is a four-part discussion series presented by The Fund for New Jersey to examine the critical issues shaping the state's future ahead of the 2025 gubernatorial election. These conversations bring together policy experts, community leaders, and residents to foster informed dialogue and inspire meaningful action toward a stronger, more just New Jersey. Light refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you there!" Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-future-of-the-environment-and-transportation-in-new-jersey-tickets-1412555484479>.

---

**USACE NY-NJ Harbor and Tributaries Study  
Draft Report - Comments Due 8/25/2025**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), NY District has released a Draft Integrated Interim Response Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Actionable Elements, for the NY-NJ Harbor and Tributaries coastal storm risk management feasibility study (NYNJHAT Study). "The report details a plan for Actionable Elements that could provide near-term localized actions in the study area." One of the Actionable Elements is the East Riser Ditch Channel, a tributary of the Hackensack River in the Meadowlands of northeastern NJ. The Draft Report can be found on the left side of the NYNJHAT webpage, available here: <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/New-York-New-Jersey-Harbor-Tributaries-Focus-Area-Feasibility-Study/>. **The public comment period ends 8/25/2025;** instructions on how to comment are on the webpage cited above under July 2025 Update.

---

**Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)  
Advisory Committee on Climate Change  
Meeting - via Zoom  
8/27/2025, 9:30 a.m.**

For the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Advisory Committee on Climate Change (ACCC) meeting, additional information, including links to the agenda and Zoom registration, are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/advisory/>.

---

**"Good Grain" Film Screening at Pinelands  
Preservation Alliance  
8/27/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Southampton Township, NJ - In-person**

"In 2024, NOFA NJ [Northeast Organic Farming Association of NJ] partnered with filmmaker Jared Flesher of Hundred Year Films to highlight the artisans behind the local grain movement in New Jersey. The resulting documentary, Good Grain, explores the opportunity and excitement that the local grain economy brings, and why it is important to shift away from our reliance on synthetic chemicals in the production of grain crops.... Join us for the Grand Premiere inside the historic 1930's barn at Pinelands Preservation Alliance in Southampton, NJ. Enjoy snacks made from local grains and a post-screening discussion/Q&A while learning more about the local grains movement. Admission is free but RSVP is required. Optional Donations will be used to purchase and donate local, chemical-free grain products to Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. This event is made possible with support from the USDA Transition to Organic Partnership Program." The movie trailer is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cL\\_AryvqD9Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cL_AryvqD9Y). Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3btcxmv4>.

---

**Tour Operating Wind-Energy Turbines  
Wednesdays in August, 12:00 p.m.  
Atlantic City, NJ - In-person**

The Atlantic City Utilities Authority (ACUA) is offering hour-long free tours of its wind farm and Wastewater Treatment Facility on Wednesdays in August. ACUA's Wastewater Treatment Facility is the largest hybrid wind and solar powered water treatment facility in the world. The wind farm was

the first commercial development of its kind in the state, as well as the first coastal and urban wind farm in the nation. Visitors will learn about the wastewater treatment process and how wind and solar keep this important operation running. Guests will also receive a close-up view of the Jersey-Atlantic Wind Farm. Additional information is available here: <https://www.acua.com/Community-Hub/Tours/Open-House-Tours.aspx>.

---

---

**VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS**

**Eco-Logic Radio Show: "Green  
Amendments - States' Progress Report"  
- Recording of Radio Show**

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI aired this recent show related to EJTF's goals (cohosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**). "There oughta be a law" to protect clean air, clean water, sane energy, wildlife and their habitat. Well there is! Some states have one right in their constitutions and 20 more states have proposed one. It's the Green Amendment. The Green Amendment gives power back to the people." Green Amendments Founder Maya van Rossum described the Green Amendment and presented the status of Green Amendments in various states that have either proposed or passed them. The recording is available here: <https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=58822>. Note: The Eco-Logic radio show airs Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on WBAI 99.5 FM, and can also be accessed on <https://wbai.org>.

---

**Green Amendment Day Special Forum  
- Video of Forum**

Green Amendments founder Maya van Rossum and Robert F. Williams, Director of the Center for State Constitutional Studies at Rutgers Law School, presented this special forum that explored "how and why state constitutions are poised to help address our nation's most pressing issues." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPniOOCduVY&t=1s>.

---

## **Pinelands Webinar Series - "Climate Change Part 1" - Video of Webinar**

This webinar continued the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) monthly webinar series "exploring the vital work of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) and how you can help protect this unique ecosystem. These free public webinars are based on our 35th anniversary State of the Pinelands Report [available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2hhf93y3>]." This webinar focused on "Climate Change in the Pinelands Part 1: From Ice Ages to Rising Seas: Understanding Climate Change in the NJ Pinelands.' .... The New Jersey Pinelands is experiencing increased fire risk, flash droughts, flooding, sea level rise, and impacts to Pinelands species. Pinelands Preservation Alliance has been advocating for policies that would reduce the pace of climate change and help communities prepare for its impacts." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaC2R16jpDU>.

---

## **"Water's Edge: Threats to the Delaware River Watershed" - Video of Roundtable**

In 2023, NJ Spotlight News presented a series "Water's Edge: Trials and Tributaries of the Delaware River Watershed." This roundtable follows up with some of those who reported on the regions, to find out what has changed since then. From the press release: "We talked about the pressing need for affordable housing adding to the pressure to develop areas in the Highlands and the Pinelands. We talked about the rising levels of saltwater encroaching up the river and into the aquifers and beyond. And we discussed the Trump administration's impact as it challenges accepted evidence of climate change on the watershed and the regulations that govern much of the region's future." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/waters-edge-roundtable-reassessing-delaware-river-watershed-challenges/>

---

## **NJDEP "Natural Climate Solutions Round 1 Showcase" - Video of Webinar and Maps/Descriptions of Projects**

This webinar was presented by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It showcased a selection of funded projects from Round 1 of the

Natural Climate Solutions Grant Program that funds "on-the-ground implementation of projects that create, restore, and enhance New Jersey's natural carbon sinks, such as salt marshes, seagrass beds, forests, urban parks and woodlands, and street trees." Projects that were presented included: American Littoral Society, Marsh Restoration at the mouth of the Maurice River; Stafford Township, Marsh restoration at Popular Point, NJ Conservation Foundation, Urban Tree Planting in Trenton; and Readington Township, Readington Township Meadow Afforestation. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKviQfb6cUk>. A website describing the program, with maps and descriptions of the Round 1 Green Carbon and Blue Carbon, is available here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/696ed0cf7f22433eaf7796969370744f>.

---

## **"Heat Vulnerability Across the Lifespan: Exposure, Sensitivity, and Adaptive Capacity to Extreme Heat" - Video of Webinar**

This webinar was sponsored by Elders for Climate Action (ECA). "Extreme heat is responsible for more deaths than all other natural disasters combined, and is also associated with a number of other adverse health outcomes. Unfortunately, due to climate disruption, the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme heat is increasing. In this National Call, we [discussed] heat vulnerability across the lifespan, focusing on heat exposure, heat sensitivity, and adaptive capacity to mitigate the effects of extreme heat. We [reviewed] why young children, pregnant adults, older adults, outdoor workers, and those who live in urban heat islands are at particularly high risk during an extreme heat event. We [discussed] steps to prepare for hot days, as well as [reviewed] the symptoms and signs of heat-related illness. We [ended] with an evaluation of work in progress to improve individual and community resilience to extreme heat." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2L5uEU4Sgg>.

---

## **"Does Extreme Heat Threaten NJ's Environmental Justice Goals?"**

### **- Video of Webinar**

NJ's Interagency Council on Climate Resilience hosted a webinar "featuring a panel of climate equity and urban sustainability experts to discuss how overburdened communities are impacted by excessive heat and strategies these communities are implementing to diminish harm." The moderator was Kandyce Perry, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and panelists were:

Jackie Park Albaum, Director of Urban Agriculture, Groundwork Elizabeth; Dr. Clint Andrews, Research Director, Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University; and Nicole Hewitt Cabral, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Newark. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyqnBkaZWGg&list=PLpTE5tP4yTvG2zvc6ljDhmsIZDJwhwXzh&index=7>.

---

## **Understanding Blackouts in Renewable Electricity Grids During Climate Extremes**

### **- Video of Webinar**

This webinar was part of the Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment's New Light summer seminar series, which features Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellows and early career researchers. It was presented by Dr. Luo Xu, an associate research scholar at Princeton University, affiliated with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment. Abstract: "Since the early 21st century, over 80% of major U.S. blackouts have been weather-related. Intensifying extreme events such as hurricanes, heatwaves, and wildfires, have nearly doubled weather-related outages in the past decade compared to the first decade of the century. Meanwhile, our energy sector, especially the electric power system, is becoming more exposed to the environment due to the large-scale integration of intermittent renewable energy such as solar and wind. Considering this increasingly coupled climate-energy challenge, in this seminar, [Dr. Luo Xu presented] a coupled climate-energy model for cascading power outages, which comprehensively captures the impacts of climate extremes on renewable generation, and transmission and distribution networks....

validated with the 2022 Puerto Rico catastrophic blackout during Hurricane Fiona and... applied to explore the role of renewable integration in energy resilience." The 16-1/2-minute video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOHwxer4At4>.

---

## **2025 Watershed Congress**

### **- Videos of Conference Sessions**

The annual Watershed Congress was presented by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and its partner organizations. "The Watershed Congress has evolved since 1998 to advance the best available information and techniques for protecting and restoring watersheds. The focus on networking across disciplines means that the Watershed Congress melds science, policy, and practical applications into one program." Six videos of sessions from the Conference, including a video about "Building a Coalition for Successful Community Engagement" presented by the vice president of the Warren County grassroots group "Citizens for Sustainable Development," are available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3yVI0q9sFIwjZZ9UIVy9DCSWWa0m1MtZ>.

---

## **NJBPU Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Meeting - Video of Webinar and Slides**

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) monthly Clean Energy Program Energy Efficiency Stakeholder meeting for July 2025 included a Guest Presentation on NJ's newly-launched "Garden State Energy Storage Program" (GSESP). The video is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4whf7syk>; the Guest Presentation begins at minute 00:17:20. Slides from the webinar are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/5xk74t9p>.

---

## **Sierra Club NJ Monthly Building Electrification Webinar - "How to Electrify Your RV" - Video of Webinar**

This event was organized by the Jersey Shore Group of the Sierra Club NJ. Professor Ben Wymore described "his adventures in designing and living in his electrified RV (a house on wheels). He and his family enjoy living in remote

sites around the country." He joined the webinar "via Starlink from the Sierra Nevada mountains to tell his adventures in design and use of his off-the-grid electrified RV." The video is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ\\_XxfPnH9Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ_XxfPnH9Q).

---

### **"From the Ground Up: Transparent Pathways to Regenerative Food Systems"** **- Video of Webinar**

This webinar was presented by As You Sow, a nonprofit foundation that describes itself as "the nation's leading shareholder representative, with a 30+ year track record promoting environmental and social corporate responsibility and advancing values-aligned investing." This webinar explored "how major food companies are currently engaging with regenerative agriculture – a resilient farming approach that has received significant attention in recent years. A panel of experts [outlined] the environmental, human health, and economic benefits of regenerative agriculture and [identified] what makes a successful regenerative agriculture program for food companies." The video is available here: <https://www.asyousow.org/video-gallery/webinar-2025-from-the-ground-up>.

---

### **"Generations United In Action: Let's Get to Work" Roundtable Discussion** **- Video of Webinar**

"This [was] the final event in the Generations United In Action Series, celebrating ECA's [Elders Climate Action] Intergenerational Climate Action Month.... [It featured] a roundtable discussion with climate change makers who have successfully led bold climate action at the state and local levels. Our intergenerational panel [shared] stories, strategies, victories, and lessons learned.... [and] valuable tools and insights that you can use to advocate for similar change in your own community." Panelists included: Aidan Fife, RegenAll; Audra Loh, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action; Ojas Sanghi, Arizona Youth Climate Coalition; and Sukrit Mishra, Solar United Neighbors. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej8OsMMYyDc>.

---

## **NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES** **[covering 6/26/2025 – 7/25/2025]**

---

---

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

---

#### **NJ Announces \$5 Million Grant Program to Combat Deadly Urban Heat**

From the press release: "The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the New Jersey Interagency Council on Climate Resilience, today [7/17/2025] announced the launch of the Urban Heat Island (UHI) Mitigation Program, a \$5 million initiative to help New Jersey's most vulnerable communities combat extreme heat and rising energy costs this summer.... The UHI Mitigation Program for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY2026), funded by the New Jersey Clean Energy Fund, will provide grants in three categories: Comprehensive UHI Interventions;...Cooling the Built Environment;... [and] Urban Micro-climate Interventions.... All projects must be located on public land or in publicly accessible spaces.... The UHI Mitigation Program provides funding for projects in overburdened municipalities and encourages strong partnerships with community-based organizations to ensure projects address local needs." The Notice of Funding Availability will be published in the New Jersey Register in August 2025. <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2025/approved/20250717.html>

---

---

### **ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION**

---

#### **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Will See Improvements as Part of Third Program Review**

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a cap-and-trade program composed of 10 states in the Northeast, including NJ. The program just released an update that will reduce the cap for carbon emissions from power plants by at least 60 percent in 2037, compared to the 2025 level.

This is a state-led program that operates independently of federal actions. States will need to take actions to update their respective laws to reflect these updated recommendations, a process expected to be completed by 2027.

<https://www.resources.org/common-resources/regional-greenhouse-gas-initiative-will-see-improvements-as-part-of-third-program-review/>

---

---

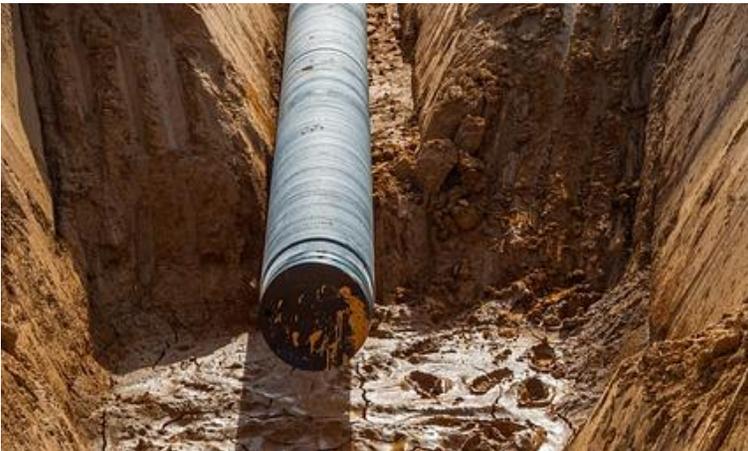
## FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

---

### Newark, Community Group Sue to Stop Power Plant

As reported in the *New Jersey Monitor*, the City of Newark and the (**EJTF partner**) Ironbound Community Corporation have filed separate lawsuits against the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC). The complaints (available here: <https://newjerseymonitor.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/7-15-25-Newark-v.-PVSC.pdf> and here: <https://newjerseymonitor.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/7-14-25-Ironbound-v.-PVSC.pdf>) allege that PVSC "acted arbitrarily and capriciously in awarding a \$232.7 million contract for the construction of a backup generation plant, ignoring health risks and alternatives to reach a predetermined outcome."

<https://newjerseymonitor.com/2025/07/16/newark-community-group-sue-to-stop-power-plant/>



### The Battle to Stop Gas Pipeline in N.J. Highlands Is Over

A NJ appellate court has ruled that the compressor station built by Tennessee Gas in West Milford does not violate environmental restrictions contained in NJ's Highlands Act. Food and Water Watch, the NJ Highlands Coalition, and the Sierra

Club had sued the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for granting an exception to the Highlands Act that allowed the compressor station to be built. They won the first round in 2023, but on appeal the NJ Supreme Court overturned the ruling and remanded the case back to the appellate court. Since the case was already lost before the Supreme Court, the plaintiffs do not plan to appeal the decision, so the four-year legal battle appears to have ended.

<https://www.nj.com/passaic-county/2025/07/the-battle-to-stop-gas-pipeline-in-nj-highlands-appears-to-be-over.html>

---

### Keyport Stands Up to NESE, Passes Resolution in Opposition

The Keyport Council unanimously passed a resolution to oppose Williams Transco's Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE), joining Franklin, Matawan, Montgomery, Aberdeen, Union Beach, Highlands, Hazlet, and South Brunswick, which have also passed resolutions opposing the project. The project includes a proposed compressor station in Franklin Township and 3.5 miles of connecting natural gas pipeline through Old Bridge and Sayreville, which would run 24 miles into the Raritan Bay to Long Island, NY. The project had been previously shelved by the company after prolonged environmental opposition, but has re-filed permitting paperwork with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). See [p. 8](#) for information on submitting comments on the project.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2025/07/keyport-stands-nese-passes-resolution-opposition>

---

---

## RENEWABLE RESOURCES (other than Offshore Wind)

---

### Opinion: To Reduce NJ Utility Bills, Boost Rooftop Solar

This opinion piece is by Jesse Jenkins, an associate professor at Princeton University in the Andlinger Center for Energy & the Environment, where his research focuses on energy systems engineering and policy. He describes the time and complexity involved in permitting a project and connecting it to the grid in NJ. He touts the bill (A5264) that

has passed both legislative houses, and that would "fast-track permits for rooftop solar and home batteries. All applicants would need to do is fill out standardized information online and click a button." He urges Gov. Murphy to sign the bill. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/op-ed-nj-and-gov-murphy-should-cut-red-tape-boost-rooftop-solar-and-home-battery-installations/>

---

---

## LAND MANAGEMENT/ AGRICULTURE/FOOD

---

### Trenton Health Team Launches NJ Statewide Food Security Index

From the NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate website: "The Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFA) engaged the Trenton Health Team (THT) to support county-level system evaluation and mapping efforts. Building on a previously developed tri-county food insecurity index in Mercer, Middlesex, and Somerset counties, the New Jersey Statewide Food Insecurity Index was launched in June 2025. This Index is a powerful resource designed to support communities across the state in understanding where food access challenges are most urgent. By highlighting the areas where families are struggling most, the Index helps community organizations, advocates, and local leaders identify opportunities for outreach and impact and make data-driven decisions about how best to meet the community's food needs." The Index is available here: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/834bef4af760415c95cbdd930af62ce0/page/Home> and additional information about it is available here: <https://www.greatertrenton.org/2025/06/27/trenton-health-team-launches-nj-statewide-food-security-index/>.

---

### Fresh for All: Combatting Food Insecurity and Waste in Glassboro

This article (by Staff Writer Trinity Eobbi) from *South Jersey Climate News*, a student-driven news site with Rowan University undergraduates as staff writers, describes the Philadelphia-based "Fresh for All" food pantry location at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ. The program rescues and distributes food to those in need, with donations from leftover and surplus crops from farmers and

wholesalers. Food that doesn't get served to clients on the day the food pantry is open is served to students for the rest of the week. Inorganic waste and recyclables are picked up and taken to relevant facilities, and organic waste is taken to a pig farm to be composted. <https://sjclimate.news/5907/features/fresh-for-all-combatting-food-insecurity-and-waste-in-glassboro/>

---

### Cuts to SNAP May Hit NJ Beneficiaries Hard

This article describes the potential impact of the federal law signed 7/3/2025 that cuts benefits to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that may result in 400,000 NJ families losing benefits. Of these, 114,000 are expected to lose more than \$25 per month, with most losing an average of \$182 per month. In addition, for the first time, states will be required to pay for some of the food costs. (Note: the law delays the effective date for these cuts until after the 2026 elections - see the article available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/republican-megabill-frontloads-tax-benefits-delays-medicaid-food-program-cuts/> - "Strategic Republican Delay of Deepest Service Cuts?") <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/snap-food-benefits-cuts-expected-hit-new-jersey-hard/>

---

### Smith, McKeon Bill to Incentivize the Sale of Land for Conservation Passed by Senate

A bill (S-3287) that would provide a "gross income tax deduction for amounts paid to taxpayers for sale of certain real property interests for conservation purposes" has passed the NJ Senate. The amount of the deduction would be equivalent to the capital gain realized by the taxpayer as determined for federal income tax purposes. The sale would need to be to a "qualified organization" as defined by the bill. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/smith-mckeeon-bill-to-incentivize-the-sale-of-land-for-conservation-passed-by-senate/>

---

---

## CLIMATE CHANGE

---

### DEP Scales Back Coastal Protection Rules at Last Minute

See the box on [p. 3](#) for information.

### Attorney General Platkin Sues Trump Administration for Unlawfully Cutting Billions in Disaster Mitigation Funding

From the press release: "New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin today joined a coalition of 20 states in suing the Trump Administration over its decision to illegally shut down the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) bipartisan Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, designed to protect communities from natural disasters before they strike. [Complaint available here: [https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases25/2025-0716-Complaint-\(FEMA-BRIC\).pdf](https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases25/2025-0716-Complaint-(FEMA-BRIC).pdf).]... The BRIC program supports often difficult-to-fund projects, such as constructing evacuation shelters and flood walls, safeguarding utility grids against wildfires, protecting wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, and fortifying bridges, roadways, and culverts.... Joining Attorney General Platkin... are attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and the governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." <https://www.njoag.gov/attorney-general-platkin-sues-trump-administration-for-unlawfully-cutting-billions-in-disaster-mitigation-funding/>

### Here's Why NJ's Summer Storms Are So Intense

In this 5-minute news video, the NJ State Climatologist explains that parts of NJ received over a month's worth of rainfall in one day in the recent storms. He emphasized that storms are not unusual in the summer, but with the warmer atmosphere resulting from climate change, the atmosphere can hold more water, and therefore we can expect the storms that occur to be wetter. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/heres-why-njs-summer-storms-are-so-intense/>

---

---

## FOREST HEALTH/URBAN FORESTRY

---



### New Jersey Bill Aims to Protect Privately Owned Woodlands From Overdevelopment

A bill (A682) that would help preserve privately owned NJ woodlands by restricting development was voted out of the Assembly Environment, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Committee. The bill requires the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) to establish "a program for the acquisition, by the State, a local government unit, or a qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization, of a development easement restricting, in perpetuity, the development of a privately owned woodland." The woodland has to be at least 20 acres in size and managed under an approved forest stewardship plan. A companion bill was previously passed by the NJ Senate.

<https://enviropolitics.com/republican-bill-to-protect-forests-clears-new-jerseycommittee/>

---

### DEP, Sustainable Jersey, and TCNJ Announce Second Round Award of Nearly \$4.5 Million in Trees For Schools Grants

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Sustainable Jersey and The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) have announced the award of nearly \$4.5 million in grants to fund the planting of trees at 40 public schools, colleges, and universities across NJ through the Trees for Schools program. From the press release: "More than half of the projects are located in overburdened communities,

where excessive paving and limited tree cover can cause temperatures to increase, a scenario known as the urban heat-island effect. Grant awardees will participate in workshops and design projects, with the goal of planting more than 4,500 trees in Spring 2026.... The grants range from \$10,000 to \$250,000 and cover costs associated with planning, site preparation, tree purchases, planting, watering, monitoring, and maintenance over a three-year period. The program.... is funded through New Jersey's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-state, market-based program that establishes a regional cap on carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel power plants. Proceeds from RGGI auctions are used to fund programs that benefit the environment. Additional information, including a list of grant recipients, is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/ywj7f44>.

---

## **Q&A: Is Bear Swamp Still on the Edge?**

This is an update to a 2023 *NJ Spotlight News* article, part of the series "Water's Edge: Trials and tributaries of the Delaware River Watershed." The original article (available here:

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/special-report/old-growth-forest-in-bear-swamp-west-nj-threatened-by-sea-level-rise-saltwater/>) provided an in-depth description of the Bear Swamp West old-growth forest, including threats to its continued existence from sea-level rise, and solutions being explored to save it from becoming a "ghost forest." This article is presented as a question-and-answer session with Zac Bohm, the preserve manager for Natural Lands, the nonprofit that owns and manages the Glades Wildlife Refuge where the swamp is located. He describes the changes that have taken place over the past two years. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/06/sea-level-rise-and-salt-imperil-bear-swamp-delaware-river-bayshore/>

---

## **LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS**

---

### **EPA Adds Historic Potteries Site in Trenton to Superfund National Priorities List**

From the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) press release: "The Historic Potteries site

includes areas once home to dozens of commercial pottery (ceramics manufacturing) operations dating back to the 1800s. These facilities commonly used lead in glazes and coatings, contributing to soil contamination across East Trenton. EPA investigations identified elevated levels of lead in soil at residential properties, schools, and recreational areas.... Since 2018, EPA has worked closely with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the City of Trenton, and community partners to investigate and respond to these risks. Short-term actions - including soil covers and fencing - have already been put in place by EPA at key locations, while today's NPL designation will allow for comprehensive, long-term cleanup supported by federal funding and authority."

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-adds-historic-potteries-site-trenton-superfund-national-priorities-list>

---

## **DRINKING WATER (other than lead)**

---

### **'Forever Chemicals' Surface in D&R Canal Amid Rollback of Federal Rules to Fight Them**

This article provides the history of how the Delaware & Raritan Canal, which provides a link between the two rivers, became a source of drinking water for NJ, under the purview of multiple agencies. It also describes the findings of recent tests of its water, that revealed the presence of PFAS "forever chemicals."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/delaware-raritan-canal-pfas-contamination-forever-chemicals/>

---

### **Chemicals Trouble Delaware River Tributaries**

This article describes a recent Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) report that "indicates there is a significant presence of toxic chemicals in the tributaries that feed the Delaware River Estuary." A concern is that these toxins could make their way into drinking water.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/06/new-report-details-toxic-chemicals-in-delaware-river-estuary-tributaries/>

---

## POLLUTION

---

### United States of Plastics Report Examines State Progress Against Plastic Pollution

Ocean Conservancy, a nonprofit environmental advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., has issued its "United States of Plastics" report (available here: <https://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Final-United-States-of-Plastics-Report-July-2025.pdf>), which analyzes laws to address plastic pollution in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. and assigns a score to each on a five-point scale. NJ received a score of 2.5, reflecting credit for restrictions on single-use plastics, but also a lack of a beverage deposit/return program. The report is designed to be "a tool for advocates and decisionmakers in each state to assess their progress against plastic pollution and identify opportunities for local action."

<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/take-deep-dive/united-states-of-plastics-report/>



---

### NJDEP Issues 5-Year Progress Report for the Regional Haze 2nd Planning Period

From the press release: "This report is a Five-year Progress Report for the Regional Haze Second Planning Period of 2018 to 2028. It documents New Jersey's continued progress in reducing emissions within the State resulting in improved visibility levels and demonstrates that the Department will meet New Jersey's 2028 visibility goal at its Class I area: the Brigantine Wilderness Area in the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (Brigantine Wilderness Area)." Additional information, including a link to the report, is

available here:

<https://dep.nj.gov/airplanning/regional-haze-dashboard/five-year-progress-report-for-the-regional-haze-second-planning-period/>.

---

## EDUCATION and YOUTH-RELATED

---

### Teachers Learn How to Teach About Climate Change

In 2024, the NJ Department of Education (DOE) established Regional Climate Change Learning Collaboratives (CCLCs) at four institutes of higher education through a competitive grant opportunity, which has been extended through 3/31/2026. The CCLCs provide NJ public schools "with free professional development, technical assistance, experiential learning opportunities, and networking opportunities to aid in their implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards supporting climate change education across all nine content areas throughout the state." The collaboratives are run by Ramapo College, Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Monmouth University and Stockton University. This article describes one of the programs from this year. [Note: the NJ School of Conservation is presenting several CCLC Professional Development Workshops, described here <https://njsoc.org/events/> on their website.]

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/nj-teachers-learn-how-to-teach-about-climate-change/>

---

### Friends of Princeton Open Space Launches Summer Land Steward Youth Program

Friends of Princeton Open Space (FOPOS) is a nonprofit whose mission in Princeton is "acquiring open space for preservation, protecting natural resources, maintaining accessibility to trails, and providing environmental education." This year, they are launching a free Land Steward Youth Leadership Summer Program for ages 15–25. It is designed as "a hands-on opportunity for youth participants to build ecological knowledge, develop leadership skills, and gain experience in ecosystem restoration." FOPOS also has additional ongoing volunteer sessions.

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/princeton/friends-princeton-open-space-launches-summer-land-steward-youth-program>

---

## **New Jersey Youth Corps of Phillipsburg Joins State Initiative to Cultivate Future Environmental Leaders**

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has begun its fifth annual Youth Inclusion Initiative, which is designed to empower youth from overburdened communities by providing them with hands-on experiences, environmental insights, and some of the technical skills necessary to pursue a career in environmental protection. For this program, DEP partners with local organizations, including the NJ Youth Corps of Phillipsburg. Other host organizations include Neighborhood Improvement Association of Trenton, Outdoor Equity Alliance of Trenton, Ranch Hope of Salem, Boys and Girls Club of Garfield, Groundwork Elizabeth of Elizabeth, Ironbound Community Corporation of Newark, United Community Corporation of Newark, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance of Newark, and Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/phillipsburg/sections/green/articles/new-jersey-youth-corps-of-phillipsburg-joins-state-initiative-to-cultivate-future-environmental-leaders>

---

## **Hawthorne Celebrates Green Students and Businesses**

As part of an annual school presentation to the Hawthorne Environmental Commission, student participation in environmental education activities were showcased and local businesses and residents received recognition for environmental actions. The theme of the program was "Think Globally, Act Locally" by taking the initiative and setting the example on how to make a difference. The presentation provided teachers with an opportunity to showcase any activities they have done with their students relating to preserving the environment. Students presented their projects, including one by Hawthorne High School STEM students, "Watering Can," in which they created a product that would enable individuals in times of emergency to distill dirty water into purified drinking water.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/hawthorne/sections/green/articles/hawthorne-celebrates-green-students-and-businesses>

---

---

---

## **OTHER**

---

### **In Budget Crunch, NJ Strips Clean Energy Fund in Near-Record 'Raid'**

Continuing the nonobservance of his 2017 campaign pledge to stop the raids of the Clean Energy Fund for purposes for which it was not intended, Gov. Murphy signed this year's budget that diverted \$190 from the fund, nearly triple the 2024 amount taken. NJ Transit received twice as much as it had in 2024.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/nj-budget-diverts-190-million-clean-energy-funding-nj-transit/>

---

### **New Jersey Law Requires Study of Impact of Data Centers on Electric Usage, Consumer Costs**

Gov. Murphy signed into law a bill (S4318/A5466) that directs the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to study the effects of data centers on electricity costs. From the legislative statement: "The bill contains certain specific items to be studied by the BPU, including an estimate of the portion of the average residential electricity rate in New Jersey that will be attributable to the demand imposed by data centers in the next 20 years, assuming a range of likely scenarios concerning the number of data centers in the region where PJM operates. The bill also requires the BPU to assess various policies that could be used to mitigate or avoid rate increases in New Jersey caused by increased electricity demand by data centers in the region where PJM operates, including the use of a special tariff to be applied to data centers within the State. The bill requires the BPU to submit a report that presents the findings of the study to the Governor and the Legislature within 15 months after the bill's effective date."

<https://www.publicpower.org/periodical/article/new-jersey-law-requires-study-impact-data-centers-electric-usage-consumer-costs>

---

## PJM Releases Record-High Capacity Auction Results

From the Sierra Club NJ press release: "Today [7/22/2025], the regional transmission organization PJM released its 2025 capacity auction results.... This year, the capacity auction ended at the price cap of \$329.17/MW-day, even higher than last year's record-breaking clearing price and more than 10 times higher than the clearing price from the 2024/2025 capacity auction.... PJM maintains that demand exceeding supply is causing the spike in electricity prices, despite the fact PJM has 210 GW of projects stuck in its queue, with about 95 percent of these being affordable, clean energy projects." A price cap had been instituted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) at the urging of the PA governor with strong support by Gov. Murphy (a link to download the FERC decision is available here:

[https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession\\_number=20250421-3069&optimized=false](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20250421-3069&optimized=false)); without the cap, the price would have been over 50% higher, according to the FERC decision.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2025/07/pjm-releases-record-high-capacity-auction-results>

## Bipartisan Group of Governors Issue Joint Letter to Grid Operator PJM Advocating for Increased State Representation Amid Ongoing Leadership Changes and PJM Cost Crisis

From the press release: "Governor Phil Murphy, along with the governors of Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, Illinois, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Tennessee sent a bipartisan letter [available here: <https://tinyurl.com/mwknr5s5>] to PJM Interconnection calling on the grid operator to enact fundamental changes and appoint new leadership to restore confidence in its ability to meet the ongoing energy affordability crisis and resource adequacy demands.... Following the recent termination of two longstanding Board members and the imminent departure of the CEO, the letter highlights the need for a balanced bipartisan slate of candidates and requests that two Board seats remain dedicated to candidates who are proposed by the states collectively.... While the Members will ultimately decide who sits

on the Board, allowing states to propose candidates would add necessary transparency to the PJM Board's decision-making process and uplift states' affordability and reliability priorities." <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250718a.shtml>

## Opinion: We Need More Transparency as NJ Energy Prices Rise

This piece by Robert Karabinchak, a member of the NJ Assembly, addresses the rise in NJ energy prices, describing a conflict of interest wherein the regional transmission organization PJM Interconnection's policies "are shaped by votes from the public utilities that profit when energy prices go up and energy is connected inefficiently. These utilities have a say in decisions that ultimately benefit their bottom line, not necessarily the consumer." He touts a bill (A5463) that has passed both houses of the legislature, which requires NJ's electric public utilities to disclose the way they vote at PJM.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/nj-residents-need-more-eyes-on-how-public-utilities-vote-on-energy-price-issues/>



## Heat, Storms Spur Harmful Algal Blooms in NJ Lakes and Reservoirs

This 5-minute news video describes the causes, impact, and differences in various types of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) affecting NJ lakes. NJ's recent cycle of heat and thunderstorms provides optimal conditions for growth of HABs. (See [p. 2](#) for photos of **EJTF member Christine Dunbar's** group collecting HABs data.)

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/heat-storms-spur-harmful-algal-blooms-in-nj-lakes-and-reservoirs/>

---

## Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Increase Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety

From the press release: "Governor Murphy signed [bill] A4765/S4146, legislation that strengthens requirements for driver education and testing on safely and responsibly sharing the roads with pedestrians and cyclists.... The law requires that both driver's education curriculum and the driver's examination include information about a driver's responsibilities when approaching a pedestrian operating a bicycle or personal conveyance, as well as the associated penalties for failing to comply with these responsibilities."

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250717a.shtml>

---

## NJ Future Issues Policy Roadmap "Redeveloping New Jersey, Planning for Prosperity"

From the press release: "New Jersey Future is proud to announce the launch of our state policy roadmap: Redeveloping New Jersey, Planning for Prosperity. This comprehensive, solutions-focused roadmap outlines a path toward a more resilient and more inclusive New Jersey. Rooted in data and guided by our decades of policy leadership, the roadmap offers practical and cost-effective strategies to:

- Expand equitable access to housing
- Modernize infrastructure
- Strengthen our economy
- Address the impacts of climate change
- Foster vibrant, healthy communities across the state." Additional information and a link to the roadmap are available here:

<https://www.njfuture.org/redevelopingnj2025/>.

### EJTF's GOALS for 2024/2025

- 1. Advocating for the adoption of the Green Amendment in New Jersey through work in our congregations and as a Task Force;**
- 2. Working toward resolving the many challenges in New Jersey related to food-insecurity, including but not limited to promoting regenerative agriculture, increasing accessibility of healthy food, reducing food waste, and encouraging community and family gardens;**
- 3. Supporting 100% renewable energy and energy conservation through measures such as the Clean Energy Equity Act, and those affecting transportation and Electric Vehicles (EVs).**
- 4. Advocating for better health and reducing climate change for all by protecting and expanding New Jersey's public and urban forests.**
- 5. Advocating for a better understanding of the interconnected web of life by influencing education for people of all ages, including public school curriculum of K-12 students.**

### MORATORIUM MONDAYS CONTINUE

Please continue to contact Gov. Murphy every Monday and urge him to declare a climate emergency moratorium on fossil fuel projects! These efforts have been successful in that a number of projects have been stopped or delayed in the past. Either call through the EmpowerNJ number (866-586-4069) to get coaching on the topic of the week, emphasizing what is in the news, or call directly to the governor's office (609-292-6000). Over 50 environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups in NJ are calling on Governor Murphy to enact a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in NJ until there are rules in place to achieve 100% clean energy goals.

---

---

UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force -  
Visit <https://uufaithaction.org/environment/> for links and resources, and to join the EJTF

---

---